

From: Nathaniel
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:23pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a consumer, I believe that the Microsoft settlement as it stands now would be a bad idea. I hate the fact that I am all but forced to use Microsoft products due to the lack of competition in the PC OS market. While there are...or at least there were a good deal of options, the only option now as far as alternative operating systems seems to be linux and then you are forced to rely upon the generosity of others to create enough software to make your machine usable for everyday tasks. I was an ex-beos user but after the dissolution of the company and just about every major corporate player pulling out of the market, I have had to revert back to an MS platform so that I could accomplish any sort of productivity at home. As a student, I have very little funds to spend on operation systems which is why BeOS was such an attractive offer. I paid 60 dollars once and any incremental update was free, the R4.5 update having been sent to me in the form of a CD. After that, I need only pay 30 dollars for any major upgrade. Linux isn't an option as I would face many of the same problems I faced with BeOS. While there is more support, there isn't any viable commercial support, most companies denying any request to port their programs to other systems other than windows because they realize that as things stand now, it would be an attempt in futility. What is to guarantee that the operating system will last. Even IBM had trouble competing with Microsoft with their OS/2 platform, I was stung by Microsoft then when IBM decided to no longer support OS/2 shortly after MS released Windows 95 and NT 4. Personally, I would like to see tougher restrictions placed on Microsoft and their business practices closely watched. I would also like to see a change in services run by microsoft as I find it a bit...unfair that I must use Internet Explorer to have full functionality when accessing my hotmail account, and I think that as a user, I should be given the option of what software I want to have installed by default with a new OS installation. If I don't want IE or MSN Explorer or MSN Messenger, I should be given the option to not have them installed.

-N.